



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
World Wide Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

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**COLORADO RURAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORP.  
RECEIVES GRANT FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
*\$585,000 Grant to build Mutual Self Help Homes*

Alamosa, CO – Colorado Rural Housing Development Corp. (CRHDC) received \$585,000 Technical Assistance Grant from USDA Rural Development today. This funding will allow for a total of 30 affordable homes to be built over the next two years through the Mutual Self Help Housing Program in Alamosa, San Luis, Trinidad, and Monte Vista.

The Mutual Self Help Housing Program empowers individuals/families to work together building their homes as a group. By investing their own labor, homeowners end up with a substantial amount of “sweat equity” built into their home, without having the burden of a down payment. “Attaining the American Dream of Homeownership can be a challenge for anyone. Through this program, Rural Development is able to assist individuals become first time homeowners and increase their quality of life,” said Joe Hostetler, Colorado Acting State Director, USDA Rural Development. Through the USDA Rural Development Mutual Self Help Program 1,606 homes have been built throughout Colorado with a total value of over \$99 million.

Al Gold, Executive Director, CRHDC, said “As we celebrate 35 years of operation and the development of over 1,500 Self-Help homes, we are proud to be standing here today. We are once again thankful, and we feel humble for the opportunity to come together with our significant partners: Rural Development, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, NeighborWorks America, the City of Alamosa, The City of Monte Vista, the Boys and Girls Clubs, as well as other communities in the San Luis Valley and Trinidad. We will continue to offer home ownership opportunities and economic vitality to families who wish to work and live in these fine communities.” Funding provided by Rural Development will assist CRHDC with recruitment, screening, loan packaging, and related activities for prospective self-help housing applicants. Anyone interested in participating in the Mutual Self Help Housing Program in this area should contact Sherry Hall with CRHDC at (719) 589-1680.

As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting Colorado’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/co/index.html>

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